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AGRICULTURE

Broad Leaf Laurel.

We illustrate Broad Leaf Laurel Kalmia latifolia), a plant that is ornamental, but that has been known to poison sheep, cattle, horses and even goats. Where grown as an ornament

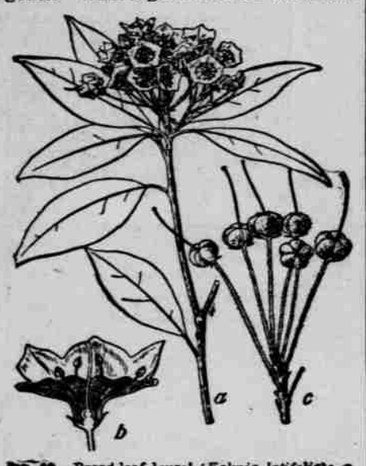

FIG. 19.—Broad-leaf laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*): *a*, flowering spray, one-third natural size; *b*, vertical section of flower showing peculiar attachment of stamens, natural size; *c*, fruiting capsules, natural size.

it should not be left within reach of animals nor should its trimmed-off branches be thrown over into the pasture. The shrub also grows wild and where existing in pastures should be taken out. It is a fine shrub, growing from 4 to 8 feet high, but has sometimes been known to reach 30 or 40 feet. It has thick, flat and shining leaves, showy clusters of pink flowers, which appear in May and June, and globular and dry fruit. It grows abundantly on rocky hillsides and on mountain slopes up to 3,000 or 4,000 feet. The honey derived from the flowers appears to be poisonous under some conditions.

Value of Good-Sized Seed.

A plant has inherited its internal and vital power from all the crops through which it came—all the ancestors through which it ascended or descended, says Professor Robertson of Canada. An appreciation of the inherited as well as the acquired power of plants will be of assistance in selecting the kind of seed that will do best on each farmer's land. What I want to make clear is the difference in the vigor of growth between the seeds of the same variety when sown in different localities, and the difference—the amazing difference—in the productiveness of selected large, plump seeds over small seeds of the same variety.

The seed of a cereal is a plant in embryo, and a store of food for the nourishment of the young plant after it wakens into activity (germinates), and until it takes in food through its rootlets and leaves. The germination of the seed is not the so-called creation of life. That happened when the plant was fertilized; and the seed is an embryo, with a store of food lying close by it and within the same skin. The store of food which composes the greater part of the seed is for the maintenance of the young plant until it is able to take nourishment through its leaves and rootlets. A young plant is wakened up as soon as the moisture and warmth are sufficient, and its food close by is prepared under the same conditions.

Sometimes an embryo plant is imperfectly formed and weak; and tests show that imperfectly ripened seeds, under ordinary conditions, do not give nearly as good a crop as fully ripened seeds in each of which both the embryo and its food have been fully prepared. Those seeds which germinate most quickly are the best, and it has been proven over and over again that heavy seeds give larger and better crops than small seeds of the same sort. This has been proven over and over again. The reason seems to be that in one case (large seeds) the supply of food for the young plant is plentiful when it most needs it, while in the other case (small seeds) the food supply may be insufficient to nourish the young plant adequately at the most critical time when it is tender and struggling for survival. Under the most favorable conditions of temperature, moisture and food supply in the soil, small seeds might give as much in crop as large seeds. On comparatively poor land, in unfavorable seasons, is where the small seeds give their worst returns. The farmer who has rich soil in a fine condition of tilth is the only one who can afford to sow small seeds, and the risk of comparatively small crops is great even then.

The woman who crawls under the bed during a thunder storm is not always the one who is afraid of a domestic blow

HORTICULTURE

Some Good Shrubs.

Those of our readers that have visited the Minnesota Agricultural College will remember the very effective arrangements of shrubs between and around the principal buildings. The shrubs used on this campus are hardy in almost all portions of the middle West. On a recent visit to the college, the writer made a note of some of the most beautiful shrubs, which he felt he could recommend to readers of the Farmers' Review. Below are some of them:

Juneberry (Amelanchier). This is a plant that has a variety of forms, some of them mere shrubs and some of them trees from twenty-five to forty feet high. In its different varieties it grows in temperate climates around the world. The writer saw it growing on the banks of the Saskatchewan in British America, where it was known as the Saskatoon. It is there highly prized for its foliage and fruit. Saskatoon berries are very popular. To the writer it seemed to be identical with the wild "sugar plum" of New England. The trees or shrubs bloom very early in the spring, and do well on a great variety of soils and situations. They also succeed well in dry climates.

Caragana (Caragana arborescens). This is a shrub, or rather tree, from Siberia. The form mentioned above is the only one that grows to the size of a tree. It seems to be very hardy. It was seen growing in all parts of the Canadian Northwest and seemed to be a general favorite. In some places where it was thriving the rainfall is only ten inches a year. This would indicate that it can stand both cold and drouth. It belongs to the order leguminosae, and some members of its immediate family are found from the Himalayan mountains in southern Asia to Siberia.

Tartarian Maple (Acer tartarica). This is a very beautiful maple, the leaves being long and deeply serrated, with a tint that draws attention to it in any group of trees. It is probably hardy in nearly all situations.

Dogwood (Cornus sangunea). This is one of a family of twenty growing in North America. This one (sangunea) has purple or dark red branches, which lend a charm to the shrub at any time of year. The flowers come in May and June and are greenish-white, growing in dense cymes. The fruit when ripe is black.

Buffalo Berry (Shepherdia argentea). This is one of the three American plants belonging to Sheperdia. The leaves, as of the others, are silvery. The staminate and pistillate blossoms are borne on different trees. Both kinds are grown at the Minnesota college. The tree is prized mostly for its foliage, but its berries are edible. We have seen these trees at Cornell University loaded with fruit in the fall. The fruit is acid and edible. It may some day become popular.

Cut-Leaf Elder (Sambucus Nigra aurea). This is quite commonly known as "Golden Elder" and is distinguished by its golden foliage, as is indicated by its varietal name "aurea." It is very effective when planted in small masses.

Red Berry Elder (Sambucus racemosa). This is a variety that is being quite extensively planted. It is nearly identical with Sambucus pubens. The red fruit begins ripening in June.

Golden spirea (Physocarpus Opulifolius aurea). These are well adapted to shrubbery formations and are suited to almost any soil. The leaves of this variety are bright yellow at first, but gradually change to a golden bronzy yellow.

Sheepberry (Viburnum Lentago). This is a shrub or small tree that frequently attains a height of thirty feet. It holds its fruit over the winter till spring. This fruit is bluish-black, with quite a bloom upon it, and helps add to the beauty of the landscape in which it is found.

Garland Syringa (Philadelphus coronarius), known also as the Mock Orange. The flowers are creamy white and very fragrant.

Individuality in Plants.

The whole tendency of modern plant breeding, as we have seen, is to begin with a plant because it has individual merit rather than because it represents a particular variety. That is, we are constantly giving greater attention to individuality in plants. This the animal breeder has always done. If no two Cuthbert raspberry bushes and no two early Crawford peach trees are alike, why not propagate from those that are best? I have an orchard of Crawford peaches, all purchased from one of the best and most reliable nurserymen, but I have at least twenty different kinds of Crawfords, some of them practically worthless. If I were to plant another Crawford orchard, I should want to know what trees the buds were taken from. If I were to propagate indiscriminately from my own orchard, persons to whom I should sell the trees would probably say either that the stock was "mixed" or that the Crawford had run out. Now, I admit that the stock would have been "mixed" and yet every tree be a Crawford. Suppose, now, that I should propagate only from the very best trees, what then would likely be the result? I believe the time has come when the nurseryman must cease to propagate indiscriminately from stock merely because it belongs to a given variety. He should propagate only from stock or trees that he knows to have direct merit.—Prof. L. H. Bailey.

The Fat Show Hog.

Mr. J. R. Young, in speaking of the practice of overloading show hogs with fat, said: Most hog breeders are willing to cry out against the practice of loading hogs with fat when they are to go into the show ring. It destroys their constitution, deadens their sensibilities, and if put to great exertion they are likely to become deaf or blind or both. It is opposed to longevity and fecundity. You herald it to a neighbor and friend that they are worthless from a breeder's standpoint. Yet after all if we were to pin the judge's badge onto the same gentleman he would walk into the show ring and diligently search for the very fattest hog that has carried his true outline, the great and salient feature of a show hog, upon which to tie the ribbon, other things being equal. History repeats itself and everybody knows what it takes to win in the show ring. When we show, we show to win, and fat, though the octopus that maims and deadens the most beautiful and artistic of the specimens of the breeder's skill, is the one great card that has almost always drawn the prize. Thus, from this point of view a grave condition confronts us, and the question is what we are going to do. First of all it seems to me that we must have a standard of excellence to show to. This being accomplished, we should lay down such rules as would be expected to lead an awarding judge to work to such a model. One of the great obstacles to overcome is precedent. Not many judges have the courage to pass over the beautifully fitted and thoroughly ripened hog and give the prize to the one less fattened, though strikingly outlined. Precedent gives it to the fitted one, which some will say is right, as in that one you see the art that is before you, while in the commonly fitted one you guess what the finish might be. I believe it is possible, however, to find judges that are able to tell reasonably sure what a worthy hog, ordinarily fitted, would finish up to, and having a standard and code of instruction to work to, will tie the ribbons accordingly. It would give them precedence and require no courage to overcome criticism, and give them solid ground to work upon.

Poisoning Gophers.

Pocket-gophers are easily poisoned. They are very fond of common potatoes, sweet potatoes, apples, raisins and prunes, says D. E. Lantz of the Kansas station. The presence of strychnine, arsenic or other poisons does not seem to deter them from eating the food; but if the poison is sweetened they seem to eat it more readily. In summer it may be desirable to take the trouble to sweeten the poison, but in the fall and early spring it does not seem worth while to do this. The poisoned food being introduced to the burrows below the surface, there is no danger of poisoning the stock. It might be well, however, not to let swine run in the alfalfa fields for a time after the poison has been put out. The following method of introducing the poison is recommended: Cut the potatoes or other food, into pieces not more than three-fourths of an inch in diameter. Cut a slit in each piece and with the point of the knife blade insert a little sulphate of strychnine; as much as half the bulk of a grain of wheat will answer the purpose. The moisture from the potato will cause the poison to adhere to the blade. Having prepared the bait in sufficient quantity, go to the field armed with a round, sharp-pointed implement an inch or an inch and a half in diameter and of sufficient length. Use this in making a hole directly into the burrow, into which drop the poisoned potato.

No digging with a spade or other hard labor is necessary. An experienced person can distribute poison to many acres of alfalfa in a day; and if proper care is taken to rightly distribute the bait, it will not be necessary to go over the ground a second time. Some experience is required to enable one to find the burrows quickly. It is best to insert the food as near as possible to the freshest mounds of earth thrown up by the animals. Two or three pieces of potato at that place are worth many scattered in other parts of the runway. The operator should avoid the larger mounds and those that are not freshly made.

Pride is a vice not only dreadfully mischievous in human society, but perhaps of all others, the most insuperable bar to real inward improvement. —Mrs. E. Carte

VANITY FAIR

Girl's Frock.

Simple designs are generally more becoming to young girls than the more elaborate ones and a pretty frock which combines both simplicity and good taste is shown here, made up in red cashmere and cream colored lace. The dress may be made with or without a lining and may be finished with a guimpe or made all in one. Narrow tucks in the waist and sleeve add to the attractiveness of the design and the handkerchief frill is the latest finish for a guimpe dress. This style is fitted to the yoke edge, with points at front, back and shoulder. The lining may be faced to yoke depth with lace or made of contrasting material. The attached skirt is of the five-gored style and may be made with or without the circular flounce. The back may be gathered or fullness taken up by an inverted box-plait.

A pretty dress for school or general wear might be constructed in blue serge with bands of Russian embroidery or rows of soutache braid for trimming. The braid is quite inexpensive but very effective.

For a Pretty House Gown.

The best possible material to use in making the pretty house gown is nun's veiling or albatross. These fabrics art not expensive. Indeed, very nice pieces may be picked up in the shops as low as 40 or 50 cents a yard. House gowns are made very simply. They are trimmed with fagoting, velvet ribbon and dyed laces. Soft materials are attractive when made up in the form of accordion plaited gowns, which are still fashionable. Lace collars and cuffs form appropriate decorations for these gowns.

Of Empire Green Cloth.

The skirt is composed of three overlapping, shaped flounces, each bordered and finished at one side with a band of white kid, embroidered with nailheads of steel and jet.

The bolero and bell-shaped sleeves are trimmed to correspond, and the corslet is of the cloth, trimmed at the bottom with an embroidered kid band, forming a girdle. The guimpe and puffed undersleeves are composed of guipure insertion and bands of the kid, the latter embroidered with steel nailheads only.—La Guides des Couturieres.

Pointer on Starching.

When starching toilet table covers (or anything that has the new-fashioned fringe trimming) double the cover into four and gather the fringe tightly into the hand; hold it firmly while you dip the middle of the cover into the starch. When dry, shake the fringe well, comb carefully with a large toilet comb and you will find it falls as softly and prettily as when new.

With the Housewife

Old Papers.

Can be used on pantry shelves.

They may be laid over ice to retard the melting.

Newspapers may be used to clean windows and kitchen ranges.

They may be cut into bits, moistened and sprinkled over the carpet before sweeping.

They can be put under the carpet, as they are excellent nonconductors of heat and cold.

The illustrated weeklies may be circulated among friends and sometimes exchanged with mutual pleasure.

They may be given to children to cut into scallops and points and bars and stars, being far more amusing to most babies than many toys.

They may be used in an emergency on a chilly night like a pair of extra blankets on your bed. Some housekeepers have been known to stitch them in sheets for the purpose, one or two layers deep.

They may be made into picture books to amuse visiting children. The larger the better, so that a number of children may gather round it.

The Fashionable Hat.

Silk beaver hats will be extremely fashionable this season. The newest have the surface exactly like that of men's silk hats. A few have the pile brushed the wrong way. Some have a long, thick nap. These hats are to be had in fawn color, beige and pastel. They are trimmed with velvet folds and ostrich feathers. A stunning beaver plateau shape is shown at one of the shops. It is in pale beige tones and is lined with light blue tulle, shirred so as to form a series of little puffings with a narrow band of the beaver between each line of the shirring. The crown is trimmed with a twisted band of chiffon velvet, the shade of the beaver, and this is secured with a handsome turquoise buckle. On the left side of the crown are attached two blue ostrich feathers, shaded from blue to white, one curving forward and the other toward the right.

To Remove Dandruff.

Put one ounce of flowers of sulphur into one quart of water, agitate often for several hours, then pour off the clear liquid, and saturate the head with it every morning. This does not produce the extreme dryness sometimes occasioned by the continued use of borax.

THE WELL DRESSED WOMAN

Empire evening gowns will be revived with added glory.

Even the fairly short skirt, to be successful, must be full.

A favorite Paris shade is mushroom, which will tone with the autumn browns.

Mixtures of golden brown and mauve or golden brown and green will be popular.

Oriental buckles and Indian gems have been pressed into the service of fashion.

All manner of flat stole pelerines are fashionable, not to say indispensable, just now.

The shorter the bolero the more elaborate the belt, which becomes an important item.

Sable and chinchilla are to reign this coming winter like the twinkling gondoliers in the opera.

Take this to your comfort—where you want three summer hats you can do with one winter one.

Sweaters Are in Favor.

Sweaters will be worn this winter for all occasions, except when milady wishes to be very dressy. There is no more desirable article of dress for all manner of outdoor sports in cold weather. They are also useful to wear under jackets and ulsters during the zero weather that swoops down upon us from Medicine Hat once in a while during the winter. The name, hitherto, has been against them. The very word sweater called up visions of a clumsy, ill-fitting garment, ungraceful and unbecoming, which made the finest figure look like the worst and the worst look worse than ever. Of late, however, these blouse sweaters and vests have been so improved in appearance that they now are really pretty and as useful as they are becoming.

Dressy White Waist.

Blouse of white mousseline de soie. The yoke is tucked in fine tucks, and to this the lower part is shirred and puffed. Below this it is made with groups of tucks, then shirred and puffed again at the bottom.

The yoke is bordered with bands of white satin fagoted together and forming points. These pass over the shirring and the points are finished with motifs and pendants of lace. The sleeves are made and trimmed to correspond.—La Mode Elegante.

Styles in Short Suits.

The walking suits will be made with the three-quarter length coat. To be sure, these long coats have been worn all summer. However, to relieve the sameness of the styles, Eton jackets in walking suits are going to be very popular, the coats ending either at the waist line or below the knees.

In the long coats many tucks going outward ars used. The coats are fitted in the back; some with belts and some without. The skirts are straight and close-fitting, with a good deal of flare at the bottom.

Brown is the color most seen and almost any rough material will be extremely popular.

Ladies' Russian Costume.

One of the smartest designs shown for fall is the Russian costume. Its simple lines are most becoming, and it is one of the very easiest modes to make. Trimmed with braid or buttons, it is the very essence of good taste. The waist has the long shoulder seams and is shaped by under arm seams. The sleeve may be simply trimmed with braid and buttons or it may be slashed and show a puff sleeve of light-colored mull, Swiss or any preferred material that corresponds with the rest of the costume. The skirt is the circular shaping in two pieces, with front overlapped in Russian style. It is fitted by darts, has an inverted box plait in the back and may be long or medium sweep.

This mode is suitable for a house dress, or if made of heavy material is an excellent model to follow for a street gown. Made up in brown voile, with strappings of brown silk and white soutache braid, with perhaps a touch of light blue at the neck, the effect is most satisfactory and the cost of such a costume exceedingly small. If made of blue zibeline, using stitched bands of cloth for ornamentation, a most satisfactory street costume will be the result. Wool crash, Melton, cheviot, tweed or light-cloaking are suitable materials.